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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/634,960	08/08/2000	Frank Karlson	5775.018	3988

7590 12/12/2001
Christopher W Corbett Ph D
Dunlap Coddling & Rogers P C
9400 North Broadway Suite 420
Oklahoma City, OK 73114

EXAMINER

SOUAYA, JEHANNE E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1655

6

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/634,960

Applicant(s)

Karlsen

Examiner

Jehanne Souaya

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 8, 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-25 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Please note: claims 1 and 13 are linking for groups I and II. If applicant elects either of these groups, applicant must further elect the nucleic acid sequences and the microorganism specific to that group.

- I. Claims 2-3, 6-8, and 14-19, drawn to primers specific for *E. coli* nucleic acid sequences, methods for detecting *E. coli* using the primers, and kits comprising these primers, classified in class 536, subclass 24.3, and class 435, subclass 6 (SEQ ID NOS 1-3 and 14-16).
- II. Claims 4-5, 9-12, and 20-25 drawn to primers specific for *Enterococcus faecalis* or *Enterococcus faecium*; methods for detecting *Enterococcus faecalis* and/or *Enterococcus faecium* using the primers, and kits comprising these primers, classified in class 536, subclass 24.3, and class 435, subclass 6 (SEQ ID NOS 27-29 and 32-34).

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Groups I and II are patentably distinct from each other because they involve the detection of patentably distinct nucleic acid sequences from different microorganisms. The primers, kits and methods of group I are drawn to the lamB gene to detect *E. coli*, while the primers, kits and

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methods of group II are drawn to the transposase gene TN1546 to detect *Enterococcus faecalis* and/or *Enterococcus faecium*. Nucleotide sequences encoding different proteins are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another. These sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute independent and distinct inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleotide sequences are presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to restriction requirement pursuant to 35 USC 121 and 37 CFR 1.141. Further, practice of the methods of groups I and II require different reagents, different reaction conditions, and reaction parameters.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Jehanne Souaya whose telephone number is (703)308-6565. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Jones, can be reached on (703) 308-1152.

Any inquiry of a general nature should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Due to recent problems regarding the delivery and receipt of mail at the USPTO, applicant is advised to respond to the restriction requirement via facsimile, if possible. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3014.



Jehanne Souaya
Patent examiner
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Dec. 10, 2001